Process of Banning Veterinary Drugs in Pakistan

Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP)

In Pakistan, **Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan** (DRAP) is an autonomous body working at both federal and provincial level under the Ministry of National Health Services. Drug licensing, manufacturing, registration, cancellation, pricing, import and export etc. are dealt by the **Registration Board of DRAP**. Registration Board of DRAP is about 20 members committee of representatives from federal and provincial officials of DRAP including Directors of provincial drug testing laboratories, law expert, pharmacologist, physicians, experts in biological drugs, drug manufacturing, hospital and veterinary medicines etc. Further, representatives of pharma industry are also invited as observers in board meetings.

Steps for banning veterinary drugs in Pakistan

Step 1: An individual or organisation or representative of Government department writes to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the DRAP formally requesting a ban of a specific drug, sent together with copies of relevant publications and other documents directly relevant to this request (these become the file or dossier).

a) Although this request can theoretically come from anywhere, it is likely to be taken more seriously if submitted by a reputable organisation or, even better, by a government body. The file should contain robust, quantitative and clearly presented supporting information. Ideally, peer-reviewed scientific papers should be included.

Step 2: The CEO of the DRAP passes the request and file to the Registration Board of DRAP through its Chairman. The Registration board usually meets every month, however, depending upon the urgency of the matter can meet any time.

Step 3: The Registration Board reviews the validity of such requests and will put such requests on their meeting agenda assuming the file is considered adequately prepared.

a. The Registration Board also consults the Animal Husbandry Commissioner (AHC)/Chief Veterinary Officer and includes feedback from the AHC within the file for review.

Step 4: The registration board evaluates the complaint and if they consider it necessary may give the opportunity for a personal hearing to the registration holder.

Step 5: The Registration Board may require repeated discussion at successive meetings and gathering of further information before reaching a conclusion.

Step 6: The Registration Board on satisfaction issues the show cause notice and cancel the registration the drug,

Step 7: After cancellation of the registration, the drug is banned in all respect i.e. manufacturing, sale import and export etc.
